CHAPTER 291

## **GOVERNMENT - STATE**

SENATE BILL 21-292

BY SENATOR(S) Winter and Rankin, Bridges, Buckner, Cooke, Danielson, Donovan, Fenberg, Fields, Gardner, Ginal, Gonzales, Holbert, Jaquez Lewis, Kirkmeyer, Kolker, Lee, Liston, Lundeen, Moreno, Pettersen, Priola, Rodriguez, Simpson, Smallwood, Story, Woodward, Garcia:

also REPRESENTATIVE(S) Duran and Carver, Amabile, Bernett, Bird, Boesenecker, Caraveo, Cutter, Exum, Froelich, Gonzales-Gutierrez, Hooton, Jackson, Kipp, Lontine, McCluskie, McCormick, Michaelson Jenet, Mullica, Ricks, Roberts, Sirota, Sullivan, Valdez A., Weissman, Woodrow, Young, Garnett.

## AN ACT

CONCERNING THE ALLOCATION OF FIFTEEN MILLION DOLLARS FROM THE ECONOMIC RELIEF AND RECOVERY CASH FUND UNDER THE FEDERAL "AMERICAN RESCUE PLAN ACT OF 2021" FOR PURPOSE OF FUNDING VICTIM'S SERVICES PROGRAMS TO ASSIST PERSONS DISPROPORTIONATELY IMPACTED BY THE COVID-19 PUBLIC HEALTH EMERGENCY, AND, IN CONNECTION THEREWITH, MAKING AN APPROPRIATION.

Be it enacted by the General Assembly of the State of Colorado:

**SECTION 1. Legislative declaration.** (1) The general assembly finds and declares that:

- (a) Victims of crime face financial, medical, and logistical barriers to recovering from victimization. This recovery has become more difficult as a result of the COVID-19 public health emergency.
- (b) A national review of research literature found that domestic violence incidents in the country increased by more than eight percent following the imposition of stay-at-home orders;
- (c) Research suggests that social isolation is one of the most prominent tactics used by abusers to distance victims from the victims' support networks;
- (d) Although the stay-at-home orders and general movement restrictions imposed by countries around the world are slowing the infection rate of COVID-19, data suggests that domestic abuse is acting like an opportunistic infection, flourishing in the conditions created by the pandemic;

Capital letters or bold & italic numbers indicate new material added to existing law; dashes through words or numbers indicate deletions from existing law and such material is not part of the act.

- (e) Even prior to the COVID-19 public health emergency, the centers for disease control and prevention estimated that intimate partner violence costs a cisgender female survivor an average of one hundred four thousand dollars across her lifetime;
- (f) This is compounded by the fact that economic abuse occurs in ninety-nine percent of all instances of intimate partner violence, leaving survivors with little to no income, no access to cash or bank accounts, fraudulent or coerced debt in their names, and damaged financial profiles;
- (g) Survivors are, on average, four times more likely to have experienced material hardships in the past year, such as food or housing insecurity, compared with the average American adult;
- (h) The costs associated with experiencing intimate partner violence, compounded by tactics of economic abuse, keep many survivors in danger. In one study, seventy-three percent of survivors reported staying with their abuser because they could not afford to leave, and, of those survivors, fifty percent stayed for two years or longer.
- (i) A survey of one thousand three hundred twenty-one survivors of domestic violence experienced the following leading impacts of the COVID-19 public health emergency:
  - (I) Escalating violence;
  - (II) Fewer financial resources, making it harder to get or stay safe;
  - (III) Theft of stimulus checks and other COVID-19 related assistance; and
- (IV) Slowed court proceedings keeping survivors in contact with their abusers and delaying potential income, such as child support;
- (j) Anti-domestic violence organizations in Colorado that received funding from the state department of human services evaluate their services in accordance with two required outcomes of the federal "Family Violence Prevention and Services Act". These two outcomes, to create a safety plan with survivors and to ensure that survivors are aware of community resources, demonstrate that short-term services lead to reduced violence and increased quality of life over time. Anti-domestic violence organizations in Colorado that receive funding from the state department of human services must provide at least seven of the eight program elements established by the national domestic violence evidence project.
- (k) The basic theory of change underlying how domestic violence advocacy organizations' activities impact adult and child survivors' well-being states that common elements of programming, including safety planning, offering encouragement and information, lead to positive participant outcomes, such as increased knowledge and skill, reduced distress, and increased access to community resources. These outcomes contribute to measurable factors improving survivors' well-being, including factors of hopefulness and interpersonal factors of social connectedness, and economic stability, which ultimately assist with social and

emotional well-being.

- (2) The general assembly further finds that:
- (a) Victims' assistance and law enforcement (VALE) collections have been declining since 2011, while the requests for grants and services continue to increase;
- (b) As a result of the COVID-19 public health emergency, some local VALE programs reported as much as a forty percent decrease in collections and several of the metropolitan VALE programs had to significantly cut grants this past year by up to fifty percent. One judicial district was unable to award any VALE funds for 2021.
- (c) Because of the decrease in collections, the state VALE program cut grants from two years to six months for 2021-2022;
- (d) In 2015, the federal government increased the cap on the funds that states could receive as part of their federal "Victims of Crime Act" formula grant. This change resulted in a significant, but inconsistent increase in the amount of federal funds Colorado received.
- (e) In 2018, the federal award reached a peak of fifty-eight million dollars. Unfortunately, since that time it has decreased annually and the 2021 award will be nineteen million dollars, a sixty-seven percent decrease.
- (f) Victims in Colorado and agencies that provide critical services cannot sustain programming with such inconsistent funding; and
- (g) The federal "Victims of Crime Act" fund is dwindling and it is unknown when a federal fix will be approved to stabilize this funding source.
  - (3) The general assembly further declares that:
- (a) The federal government enacted the "American Rescue Plan Act of 2021", Pub.L. 117-2, as the act may be subsequently amended, to provide support to state, local, and tribal governments in responding to the impact of the COVID-19 public health emergency and in their efforts to contain the effects of the COVID-19 public health emergency on their communities, residents, and businesses. Under the federal act, the state of Colorado receives over three billion dollars to be used for the purposes identified in the federal act.
- (b) Regulations construing the federal act promulgated by the United States treasury identify a nonexclusive list of uses that address the disproportionate negative economic effects of the COVID-19 public health emergency.
- (4) The general assembly further determines that the programs and services funded by the transfers in this section are appropriate uses of the money transferred to Colorado under the federal act. This money will be put to crucial domestic violence victim's services programs across the state for persons across the state disproportionately affected by the COVID-19 public health emergency. The general assembly further intends that a broad and diverse stakeholder process shall be created to guide the state's use of the money.

**SECTION 2.** In Colorado Revised Statutes, 14-4-107, add (4)(c) as follows:

- 14-4-107. Family violence justice fund creation grants from fund definitions. (4) (c) (I) In addition to the money paid into the fund pursuant to this subsection (4) and subsection (4.5) of this section, the general assembly shall appropriate money from the economic recovery and relief cash fund, created in section 24-75-228, as enacted by Senate Bill 21-291, enacted in 2021, to the office of the state court administrator to be used for the programs and purposes described in subsection (2) of this section.
- (II) Money appropriated pursuant to subsection (4)(c)(I) of this section from the economic recovery and relief cash fund, created in section 24-75-228, as enacted by Senate Bill 21-291, enacted in 2021, must only fund programs and purposes that also conform with the allowable purposes set forth in the federal "American Rescue Plan Act of 2021", Pub.L. 117-2, as the act may be subsequently amended. The office of the state court administrator may use up to ten percent of any money appropriated pursuant to subsection (4)(c)(I) of this section for development and administrative costs incurred pursuant to this section in the provision of programs and services allowed pursuant to the federal "American Rescue Plan Act of 2021", Pub.L. 117-2, as the act may be subsequently amended.

**SECTION 3.** In Colorado Revised Statutes, **add** 18-3-407.9 as follows:

- **18-3-407.9.** Forensic nurse examiners telehealth program creation appropriation. (1) There is created in the division of criminal justice in the department of public safety the forensic nurse examiners telehealth program, referred to in this section as the "program". Telehealth is an important way to offer medical support, especially in the rural parts of Colorado, from experienced forensic nurse examiners, sexual assault nurse examiners, and other health-care providers. Forensic nurse examiners can collaborate during a forensic medical examination with emergency department nurses and doctors at remote sites in real time regardless of location in the state. This helps increase the access to competent forensic examinations and care for victims of crime.
- (2) The general assembly shall appropriate money from the economic recovery and relief cash fund, created in section 24-75-228, as enacted by Senate Bill 21-291, enacted in 2021, to the division of criminal justice in the department of public safety to be used for the programs and purposes described in this section that also conform with the allowable purposes set forth in the federal "American Rescue Plan Act of 2021", Pub.L. 117-2, as the act may be subsequently amended. The division of criminal justice in the department of public safety may use up to five percent of any money appropriated by the general assembly pursuant to this subsection (2) for development and administrative costs incurred pursuant to this subsection (2).

**SECTION 4.** In Colorado Revised Statutes, add 24-4.1-117.7 as follows:

24-4.1-117.7. State crime victims compensation program - creation appropriation. There is created in the division of criminal justice in the DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC SAFETY THE STATE VICTIM COMPENSATION PROGRAM. THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY SHALL APPROPRIATE MONEY FROM THE ECONOMIC RECOVERY AND RELIEF CASH FUND, CREATED IN SECTION 24-75-228, AS ENACTED BY SENATE BILL 21-291, ENACTED IN 2021, TO THE DIVISION OF CRIMINAL JUSTICE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC SAFETY TO BE USED FOR THE COMPENSATION OF VICTIMS PURSUANT TO THIS PART 1 THAT ALSO CONFORMS WITH THE ALLOWABLE PURPOSES SET FORTH IN THE FEDERAL "AMERICAN RESCUE PLAN ACT OF 2021", Pub.L. 117-2, AS THE ACT MAY BE SUBSEQUENTLY AMENDED. THE DIVISION OF CRIMINAL JUSTICE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC SAFETY SHALL DISTRIBUTE THE MONEY APPROPRIATED PURSUANT TO THIS SECTION BASED ON NEED.

**SECTION 5.** In Colorado Revised Statutes, 24-4.2-103, add (1.7) as follows:

- 24-4.2-103. Victims and witnesses assistance and law enforcement fund control of fund. (1.7) (a) In addition to the money paid into the fund Pursuant to subsections (1) and (1.5) of this section, the fund consists of MONEY APPROPRIATED BY THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY FROM THE ECONOMIC RECOVERY AND RELIEF CASH FUND, CREATED IN SECTION 24-75-228, AS ENACTED BY SENATE BILL 21-291, ENACTED IN 2021, TO THE OFFICE OF THE COURT ADMINISTRATOR FOR DISTRIBUTION TO THE DISTRICT ATTORNEY'S OFFICE OF EACH JUDICIAL DISTRICT TO BE USED FOR VICTIMS AND WITNESS ASSISTANCE AND LAW ENFORCEMENT PROGRAMS AND PURPOSES DESCRIBED IN SECTIONS 24-4.2-103 AND 24-4.2-105.
- (b) Money appropriated pursuant to this subsection (1.7) from the ECONOMIC RECOVERY AND RELIEF CASH FUND, CREATED IN SECTION 24-75-228, AS ENACTED BY SENATE BILL 21-291, ENACTED IN 2021, MUST ONLY FUND PROGRAMS AND PURPOSES THAT ALSO CONFORM WITH THE ALLOWABLE PURPOSES SET FORTH IN THE FEDERAL "AMERICAN RESCUE PLAN ACT OF 2021", PUB.L. 117-2, AS THE ACT MAY BE SUBSEQUENTLY AMENDED. THE OFFICE OF THE STATE COURT ADMINISTRATOR SHALL, IN CONSULTATION WITH THE DIVISION OF CRIMINAL JUSTICE AND THE VICTIMS AND WITNESS ASSISTANCE AND LAW ENFORCEMENT PROGRAM ADMINISTRATORS IN EACH JUDICIAL DISTRICT, DISTRIBUTE THE MONEY APPROPRIATED PURSUANT TO THIS SUBSECTION (1.7) BASED ON NEED.
- (c) Notwithstanding the provisions of subsection (4) of this section, the DISTRICT ATTORNEY'S OFFICE OF EACH JUDICIAL DISTRICT MAY USE UP TO TEN PERCENT OF ANY MONEY APPROPRIATED PURSUANT TO THIS SUBSECTION (1.7) FOR DEVELOPMENT AND ADMINISTRATIVE COSTS INCURRED BY THE DISTRICT ATTORNEY'S OFFICE PURSUANT TO THIS SECTION IN THE PROVISION OF PROGRAMS AND SERVICES ALLOWED PURSUANT TO THE FEDERAL "AMERICAN RESCUE PLAN ACT OF 2021", PUB.L. 117-2, AS THE ACT MAY BE SUBSEQUENTLY AMENDED.
- (d) The requirements set forth in section 24-4.2-105 (1) do not apply to THIS SUBSECTION (1.7).
- **SECTION 6.** In Colorado Revised Statutes, 24-33.5-506, amend (1.5) as follows:
  - 24-33.5-506. Victims assistance and law enforcement fund creation.

- (1.5) (a) In addition to the annual appropriations specified in subsection (1) of this section, the general assembly shall make annual appropriations of the moneys MONEY in the victims assistance and law enforcement fund for payment of the direct and indirect costs of implementing the provisions of section 17-2-201 (5)(g). C.R.S.
- (b) In addition to the money paid into the fund pursuant to this subsection (1.5) and subsection (1) of this section, the general assembly shall appropriate money from the economic recovery and relief cash fund, created in section 24-75-228, as enacted by Senate Bill 21-291, enacted in 2021, to the division of criminal justice in the department of public safety to be used for the programs and purposes described in subsection (1) of this section.
- (c) Money appropriated pursuant to this subsection (1.5) from the economic recovery and relief cash fund, created in section 24-75-228, as enacted by Senate Bill 21-291, enacted in 2021, must only fund programs and purposes that also conform with the allowable purposes set forth in the federal "American Rescue Plan Act of 2021", Pub.L. 117-2, as the act may be subsequently amended. The division of criminal justice in the department of public safety may use up to ten percent of any money appropriated pursuant to this subsection (1.5) for development and administrative costs incurred pursuant to this section in the provision of programs and services allowed pursuant to the federal "American Rescue Plan Act of 2021", Pub.L. 117-2, as the act may be subsequently amended.

## **SECTION 7.** In Colorado Revised Statutes, **amend** 24-30-2115 as follows:

- **24-30-2115.** Address confidentiality program fund creation appropriations. (1) There is hereby created in the state treasury the address confidentiality program grant fund, referred to in this section as the "fund". which shall consist The fund consists of any gifts, grants, or donations, or APPROPRIATIONS received by the department for the fund pursuant to subsection (2) of this section. The moneys MONEY in the fund shall be continuously appropriated by the general assembly to the department for the purpose of paying for the costs incurred by the executive director or his or her THE EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR'S designee in the administration of the program. All interest derived from the deposit and investment of moneys MONEY in the fund shall be credited to the fund. Any moneys MONEY not appropriated by the general assembly shall remain in the fund and shall not be transferred or revert to the general fund at the end of any fiscal year.
- (2) (a) The department is authorized to seek, accept, and expend gifts, grants, and donations from private or public sources for the implementation of the program. All private and public funds received through gifts, grants, and donations shall be transmitted to the state treasurer, who shall credit the same to the fund.
- (b) The general assembly shall appropriate money from the economic recovery and relief cash fund, created in section 24-75-228, as enacted by Senate Bill 21-291, enacted in 2021, to the department to be used for the program, so long as the expenses such money is used for are for purposes or programs that also conform with the allowable purposes set

.

FORTH IN THE FEDERAL "AMERICAN RESCUE PLAN ACT OF 2021", Pub.L. 117-2, AS THE ACT MAY BE SUBSEQUENTLY AMENDED. THE DEPARTMENT MAY USE UP TO FIVE PERCENT OF ANY MONEY APPROPRIATED BY THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY PURSUANT TO THIS SUBSECTION (2)(b) FOR DEVELOPMENT AND ADMINISTRATIVE COSTS INCURRED BY THE DEPARTMENT PURSUANT TO THIS SUBSECTION (2)(b).

**SECTION 8.** In Colorado Revised Statutes, 26-7.5-105, **amend** (3) as follows:

- **26-7.5-105. Funding of domestic abuse programs.** (3) (a) The Colorado domestic abuse program fund established pursuant to section 39-22-802 <del>C.R.S.,</del> may be funded by any general fund <del>moneys</del> MONEY that <del>may be</del> Is appropriated thereto by the general assembly pursuant to the annual general appropriations act. The executive director <del>shall have</del> HAS the authority to expend such funds appropriated to the Colorado domestic abuse program fund for the purposes described in this <del>article</del> ARTICLE 7.5.
- (b) THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY SHALL APPROPRIATE MONEY FROM THE ECONOMIC RECOVERY AND RELIEF CASH FUND, CREATED IN SECTION 24-75-228, AS ENACTED BY SENATE BILL 21-291, ENACTED IN 2021, TO THE COLORADO DOMESTIC ABUSE PROGRAM FUND ESTABLISHED PURSUANT TO SECTION 39-22-802. THE MONEY SHALL THEN BE APPROPRIATED FROM THE COLORADO DOMESTIC ABUSE PROGRAM FUND TO THE STATE DEPARTMENT TO BE USED FOR DOMESTIC ABUSE PROGRAMS AND PURPOSES DESCRIBED IN THIS ARTICLE 7.5 THAT ALSO CONFORM WITH THE ALLOWABLE PURPOSES SET FORTH IN THE FEDERAL "AMERICAN RESCUE PLAN ACT OF 2021", PUB.L. 117-2, AS THE ACT MAY BE SUBSEQUENTLY AMENDED, INCLUDING OFFSETTING GRANT REDUCTIONS AND OTHER LOSSES EXPERIENCED AS A RESULT OF THE COVID-19 PUBLIC HEALTH EMERGENCY, AND GENDER-BASED VIOLENCE ORGANIZATIONS, INCLUDING STANDALONE ANTI-SEXUAL ASSAULT ORGANIZATIONS. The state department may use up to five percent of any money APPROPRIATED BY THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY PURSUANT TO THIS SUBSECTION (3)(b) FOR DEVELOPMENT AND ADMINISTRATIVE COSTS INCURRED BY THE STATE DEPARTMENT PURSUANT TO THIS SUBSECTION (3)(b).
- **SECTION 9. Appropriation.** (1) For the 2021-22 state fiscal year, \$3,000,000 is appropriated to the department of public safety for use by the division of criminal justice. This appropriation is from the economic recovery and relief cash fund created in section 24-75-228, C.R.S., and of money the state receives from the federal coronavirus state fiscal recovery fund. To implement this act, the division may use this appropriation for the forensic nurse examiners telehealth program created in section 18-3-407.9 (1), C.R.S.
- (2) For the 2021-22 state fiscal year, \$1,500,000 is appropriated to the department of public safety for use by the division of criminal justice. This appropriation is from the economic recovery and relief cash fund created in section 24-75-228, C.R.S., and of money the state receives from the federal coronavirus state fiscal recovery fund. To implement this act, the division may use this appropriation for the state victim compensation program created in section 24-4.1-117.7, C.R.S.
- (3) For the 2021-22 state fiscal year, \$3,000,000 is appropriated to the victims and witnesses assistance and law enforcement fund created in section 24-4.2-103 (1), C.R.S. This appropriation is from the economic recovery and relief cash fund

created in section 24-75-228, C.R.S., and of money the state receives from the federal coronavirus state fiscal recovery fund. The judicial department is responsible for the accounting related to this appropriation.

- (4) For the 2021-22 state fiscal year, \$1,500,000 is appropriated to the victims assistance and law enforcement fund created in section 24-33.5-506 (1), C.R.S. This appropriation is from the economic recovery and relief cash fund created in section 24-75-228, C.R.S., and of money the state received from the federal coronavirus state fiscal recovery fund. The department of public safety is responsible for the accounting related to this appropriation.
- (5) For the 2021-22 state fiscal year, \$1,500,000 is appropriated to the department of public safety for use by the division of criminal justice. This appropriation is from reappropriated funds in the victims assistance and law enforcement fund under subsection (4) of this section. To implement this act, the division may use this appropriation for the state victims assistance and law enforcement program.
- (6) For the 2021-22 state fiscal year, \$500,000 is appropriated to the address confidentiality program fund created in section 24-30-2115 (1), C.R.S. This appropriation is from the economic recovery and relief cash fund created in section 24-75-228, C.R.S., and of money the state receives from the federal coronavirus state fiscal recovery fund. The department of personnel is responsible for the accounting related to this appropriation.
- (7) For the 2021-22 state fiscal year, \$4,750,000 is appropriated to the Colorado domestic abuse program fund created in section 39-22-802 (1), C.R.S. This appropriation is from the economic recovery and relief cash fund created in section 24-75-228, C.R.S., and of money the state received from the federal coronavirus state fiscal recovery fund. The department of human services is responsible for the accounting related to this appropriation.
- (8) For the 2021-22 state fiscal year, \$4,750,000 is appropriated to the department of human services for use by the office of self sufficiency. This appropriation is from reappropriated funds in the Colorado domestic abuse program fund under subsection (7) of this section. To implement this act, the office may use this appropriation for the domestic abuse program.
- (9) For the 2021-22 state fiscal year, \$750,000 is appropriated to the judicial department for use by courts administration. This appropriation is from the economic recovery and relief cash fund created in section 24-75-228, C.R.S., and of money the state received from the federal coronavirus state fiscal recovery fund. To implement this act, the department may use this appropriation for family violence justice grants.
- **SECTION 10.** Effective date. This act takes effect only if Senate Bill 21-288 and Senate Bill 21-291 become law, in which case this act takes effect either upon the effective date of this act, or one day after the passage of Senate Bill 21-288 or one day after the passage of Senate Bill 21-291, whichever is latest.

**SECTION 11. Safety clause.** The general assembly hereby finds, determines, and declares that this act is necessary for the immediate preservation of the public peace, health, or safety.

Approved: June 22, 2021